

UK Talent Behind World's Biggest Poetry Competition - \$50,000 Prize for One Short Poem

For Immediate Release

MONTREAL, 12 April 2011 - A group of leading poets from around the world—but predominantly based in the UK—has organized the biggest poetry competition in history. The new Montreal International Poetry Prize will award \$50,000 for a single poem of 40 lines or fewer, written in any English dialect. Writers based in the UK who are supporting this global project include Valerie Bloom, Ben Okri, Don Paterson, Sinéad Morrissey, and Eric Ormsby.

A Canadian not-for-profit, boasting participation by prominent poets from Australia, Canada, England, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Malawi, Nigeria, Northern Ireland and the US - and with the UK's Andrew Motion as their 2011 prize judge? How does such a unique creature come about?

The brief answer is that the near-ubiquity of the internet has made worldwide collaboration on global cultural projects possible. And it has also pointed up the remarkable absence from the publishing world of an authoritative, annual anthology of contemporary poetry from around the world, which this unique project aims to provide.

Designed to bring more attention to poetry and to encourage people from all over the world to enter their work, the not-for-profit Montreal Prize represents a major contribution to the global cultural scene.

"But even without a major sponsor," adds Len Epp, another co-founder, "our innovative community funding model will allow us to deliver the world's biggest poetry competition, thanks to those who support the Montreal Prize by directly participating in it."

The early entry deadline for the competition is April 22.

For more information on the Montreal International Poetry Prize, contact Len Epp or visit <http://www.montrealprize.com>. You can also read more about the Montreal Prize [here](#) at the Australian, [here](#) at the Huffington Post or [here](#) at Poets & Writers.

About the Montreal International Poetry Prize

The Montreal International Poetry Prize is a grassroots, not-for-profit organization committed to promoting poetry and poets around the world. It manages the world's biggest poetry competition, offering \$50,000 for a single poem.

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